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467 The League of the Trade Unions is a powerful factor in the economic and political life of the

[665] country. Officially non-political, it is under the influence of the Social Democratic Party and the Communists are striving to gain control of the central body as well as of the individual unions. Virtually all industrial workers belong to a trade union. In 1950 the trade unions under the Central League and the number of their members were as follows:

Union of Automobile Workers	5,232
Union of Workers in the Foodstuff Industry	8,051
Union of Hotel and Restaurant Personnel	3,149
Union of Goldsmiths and Jewellers	1,101
Union of Male Folk School Teachers	215
Union of Workers in Real Estate	1,722
Union of Workers in the Book Industry	8,143
Union of Communal Workers	18,767

186 voluntarily was a wise one, in spite of all their bitter losses and sacrifices. But the Finns are fully aware of their precarious situation, living on the edge of a volcano, so to speak, and of their helplessness in case of a fresh disaster.

•665 All the same, the people seem surprisingly calm
578 and self-possessed; panic and nervousness, they know, will not improve the situation anyway.

The inner frictions in the country, referred to above, have been caused by different groups of people pursuing their own selfish interests. So, the farmers and the workers tend repeatedly to conflict in domestic matters. The agrarians have been the leading party in most of the post-war governments, and they have made themselves unpopular in the eyes of both the intellectuals and the laboring class, who criticize them because of the high taxes and low wages and

665 [578] unwise policies which specifically promote the interests of the farmers. In the realm of foreign politics, however, there are few differences of opinion. 641 Most of the Finns feel that the decisions made by the government at various times have been the only possible decisions. Lately there has been some indication of a rising opposition to the narrow and selfish programs of the political parties and an emphasis on the importance of a more idealistic attitude for the future of the whole country. There is no doubt that patriotic feelings are still strong among the Finnish people.

186 533 The national movement in the nineteenth century gave rise to fine patriotic poetry and music. The national anthem of Finland, Maamme 'Our Land,' first sung in the students' May festival in 1848, appeared as the opening

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Annex "A," Subparagraph 2c,

Political Background

POLITICAL DYNAMICS

•665 The lines between the political parties in Finland are drawn partly according to social, or rather, economic classes, partly according to the Finnish and Swedish language groups, and partly according to differing views concerning the relations between Finland and the Soviet Union. Since World War II six political parties have been represented in the Parliament. These are the rightist National Coalition, which has its supporters among Finnish-speaking intellectuals, farmers and businessmen; the centrist Finnish People's Party of mostly intellectuals and minor officials; the Swedish People's Party of the Swedish-speaking bourgeoisie; the Agrarian Union of the farmers; the leftist Finnish Social

US Democratic Party of Workers and small-holders; and the Finnish People's Democratic Union of Workers which is communistic. The two last-mentioned hold Marxist views, while the others form the so-called "bourgeois" camp.

In spite of this multiparty system no greater flunctuations have occurred in the relative strength of the parties, except for the elections in 1945 when the Communists, after having been totally absent from political life for fifteen years, again appeared on the stage supported by current happenings in foreign affairs. The combined votes given to the "bourgeois" parties, however, has remained greater than that given to the Marxists. Moreover, after the war the divisions between socialists and bourgeoisie has lost its significance, and the Social Democratic Party has in fact been established as a centrist

865 organization, much less radical than the Labor parties in Scandinavia and Great Britain, for example. The Social Democrats and the Agrarians have always been the strongest parties in the Diet, and the speakers are usually elected among their representatives.

66 The results of the elections in 1954 were as follows:

Party	Number of votes	Number of representatives in the Diet
Social Democrats	527,094	54
Agrarians	483,958	53
People's Democratic Union	433,528	43
National Coalition	257,025	24
Finnish People's Party	158,323	13
Swedish People's Party	140,130	13

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